

edition short

Visalians even of the pioneer era were "bath conscious" it would seem from the following article taken from the Visalia Weekly Delta of July 18, 1861:

"SHOWER BATHS:--We have heretofore neglected to call the attention of our citizens to the excellent arrangement for shower baths, which has been recently fitted up near the bridge in the rear of the Delta office by our enterprising townsman, Mr. W.G. Russell.

"There can be nothing more pleasant and refreshing, and at the same time, more conducive to health than a wholesome shower of good, pure water. We would advise all who have not luxuriated in Mr. Russell's showers to go immediately and try them. Twenty-five cents cannot be expended to a better purpose."

#

edition short

Visalians even of the pioneer era were "bath conscious" it would seem from the following article taken from the Visalia Weekly Delta of July 18, 1861:

"SHOWER BATHS:--We have heretofore neglected to call the attention of our citizens to the excellent arrangement for shower baths, which has been recently fitted up near the bridge in the rear of the Delta office by our enterprising townsman, Mr. W.G. Russell.

"There can be nothing more pleasant and refreshing, and at the same time, more conducive to health than a wholesome shower of good, pure water. We would advise all who have not luxuriated in Mr. Russell's showers to go immediately and try them. Twenty-five cents cannot be expended to a better purpose."

#

edition short

~~xxxxxxxfzxxk~~ Verdicts of jurors in the early days sometimes were brief and lacked the legal verbiage of today but some justice is seen in the verdict recorded by the jury in the following story which appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of July 18, 1861:

"DEATH OF A DESPERADO:--The notorious Sam Brown of Washoe notoriety where, during the past two years, he has killed some six or eight persons, was followed by a hotel-keeper named Van Syckle and a party on the following night of the 6th and shot. A jury was called at Genoa and the verdict was: "Served him right."

edition short

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Verdicts of jurors in the early days sometimes were brief and lacked the legal verbiage of today but some justice is seen in the verdict recorded by the jury in the following story which appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of July 18, 1861:

"DEATH OF A DESPERADO:--The notorious Sam Brown of Washoe notoriety where, during the past two years, he has killed some six or eight persons, was followed by a hotel-keeper named Van Syckle and a party on the following night of the 6th and shot. A jury was called at Genoa and the verdict was: "Served him right."

edition short

Persons in politics in the early days not only "handed it out" but "took it" on occasions it would appear from ~~the~~ old records. on September 19, 1861, the Visalia Weekly Delta gave the following returns in the campaign for governor: John Conness, 29,048; Leland S^tanford, 54,562, and John R. McConnell, 30,961.

Printed in the newspaper of the same date, the story being dated September 4, is the following:

"A most horrible affair has taken place at Coloma this morning. John C^onness and John R. McC^onnell met in the reading room of the hotel and while in conversation on the state of the Union, angry words passed between them--McC^onnell calling C^onness a liar, whereupon Conness spat in McC^onnell's face, who instantly drew a small-sized revolver and fired, now, however, before C^onness had time to elevate his arm and discharge a derringer at McConnell. Both parties fell.....

"The greatest excitement prevails in consequence of this revolting affair. A riot is momentarily expected. Squads of men of both parties are seen in the streets armed with guns, revolvers and knives....God only knows how matters will end."

Editor's note: Later reports showed that neither man died.

#

edition short

Persons in politics in the early days not only "handed it out" but "took it" on occasions it would appear from the old records. On September 19, 1861, the Visalia Weekly Delta gave the following returns in the campaign for governor: John Conness, 29,048; Leland S^tanford, 54,562, and John R. McConnell, 30,961.

Printed in the newspaper of the same date, the story being dated September 4, is the following:

"A most horrible affair has taken place at Coloma this morning. John C^onness and John R. McC^onnell met in the reading room of the hotel and while in conversation on the state of the Union, angry words passed between them--McC^onnell calling C^onness a liar, whereupon Conness spat in McC^onnell's face, who instantly drew a small-sized revolver and fired, now, however, before C^onness had time to elevate his arm and discharge a derringer at McConnell. Both parties fell.....

"The greatest excitement prevails in consequence of this revolting affair. A riot is momentarily expected. Squads of men of both parties are seen in the streets armed with guns, revolvers and knives....God only knows how matters will end."

Editor(s) note: Later reports showed that neither man died.

#

edition short

Possible damage to the court house and other buildings in the Visalia area was not placed in the major catastrophe class in ~~the~~ 1861, it appears from an article appearing in the Visalia Weekly Delta of December 26, 1861, dealing with a report of heavy rainfall. The article follows:

"A steady, soaking rain commenced falling here on Monday evening, and continued without interruption until yesterday morning.

"As we go to press, it looks as though it were about to recommence. High water, and perhaps an overflow may be expected in a day or two. Fortunately, however, the plain is so wide that nothing less than Noah's flood could submerge it more than a few inches and the ground is so level about here that the water will not run fast enough to wash. So let it come--it can't do much harm except, perhaps, to tumble the court house and crack one or two other brick buildings."

#

edition short

Possible damage to the court house and other buildings in the Visalia area was not placed in the major catastrophe class in ~~the~~ 1861, it appears from an article appearing in the Visalia Weekly Delta of December 26, 1861, dealing with a report of heavy rainfall. The article follows:

"A steady, soaking rain commenced falling here on Monday evening, and continued without interruption until yesterday morning.

"As we go to press, it looks as though it were about to recommence. High water, and perhaps an overflow may be expected in a day or two. Fortunately, however, the plain is so wide that nothing less than Noah's flood could submerge it more than a few inches and the ground is so level about here that the water will not run fast enough to wash. So let it come--it can't do much harm except, perhaps, to tumble the court house and crack one or two other brick buildings."

#

edition short

An early day doctor in Visalia stated in an advertisement that he could cure most anything on the disease list but let it be generally known that he could not guarantee much help to those who had consulted other practitioners and came to him "half dead."

The advertisement, with name here deleted, appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of January 2, 1862, stated, after giving the doctor's name and office address:

"Dr.-----having graduated at the Reformed Medical College in Georgia, practices on the reformed or electric system, using curative medicines, whether mineral or vegetable.

"But discarding all drastic poisons of every kind, or using them with the utmost caution, and having lost no patients yet in Tulare county, that was entirely under my care, and hopes to cure all curable diseases that will be submitted to him.

"But half-dead invalids who have been poisoned and maltreated by quacks, in doctors' names, he does not promise or expect to cure, but only to patch up their broken constitutions, until death pays them for their folly in killing themselves with poisonous drugs."

#

edition short

An early day doctor in Visalia stated in an advertisement that he could cure most anything on the disease list but let it be generally known that he could not guarantee much help to those who had consulted other practitioners and came to him "half dead."

The advertisement, with name here deleted, appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of January 2, 1862, stated, after giving the doctor's name and office address:

"Dr.-----having graduated at the Reformed Medical College in Georgia, practices on the reformed or electric system, using curative medicines, whether mineral or vegetable.

"But discarding all drastic poisons of every kind, or using them with the utmost caution, and having lost no patients yet in Tulare county, that was entirely under my care, and hopes to cure all curable diseases that will be submitted to him.

"But half-dead invalids who have been poisoned and maltreated by quacks, in doctors' names, he does not promise or expect to cure, but only to patch up their broken constitutions, until death pays them for their folly in killing themselves with poisonous drugs."

#

edition short

Visalia, in the early days even as ~~now~~ it would now, resented overplayed news stories in metropolitan areas injurious to the community. The following article, printed in the Visalia Delta of February 6, 1862, is self-explanatory:

"For the satisfaction of our up-country contemporaries who are run ning over with sympathy for the "destruction of the ~~xxxxxx~~ town of Visalia," we will state that Visalia is not injured at all, compara tively speaking. The water rose to a height of 24 inches in our streets, and no more. There is not a single brick or wooden building down in the town. And in the "Four Creek" country, generally, all our inquiries have failed to discover the fact of one single animal of the horse or cattle type, or even a full grown hog being drowned, and but few, very few, bogging down.

"Tulare gets off cheaper than any county in the state, so far as the farming portion of it is concerned and even the mining portaiion has lost nothing which the indomitable energy of those miners will not replaoe this summer."

#

1000

Since the earliest days in her history, Visalia has made every effort to provide generously for the schools and has developed one of the finest school systems in the state.

In the first years, there were only private schools, conducted for short periods and abandoned when required funds failed to materialize. The Tulare county board of supervisors, On May 4, 1857, ordered that Block 18 be ~~designated~~ given to the school commissioners in Visalia in trust for use of the school district, provided that they construct a suitable building for use as a school within the succeeding year.

"The Little White School" was built. It was a long, narrow, one room wooden structure, generally known as the district school and derive its name from the fact that it was white-washed ~~to~~ for protection against the elements. The quarters soon became inadequate and an "L" addition, built of tin, was constructed in 1864.

The Visalia Select Seminary was organized by the Rev. and Mrs. B.W. Taylor in 1860, citizens subscribing to the building fund. Lots were donated by J.R. Keener at the present corner of West Mineral King and Watson avenues, combining a day and boarding school for pupils of both sexes. The main building was 80 feet long by 40 feet in width, 25 feet high in two stories. ~~and cost \$25,000~~

more

Since the earliest days in her history, Visalia has made every effort to provide generously for the schools and has developed one of the finest school systems in the state.

In the first years, there were only private schools, conducted for short periods and abandoned when required funds failed to materialize. The Tulare county board of supervisors, On May 4, 1857, ordered that Block 18 be ~~designated~~ given to the school commissioners in Visalia in trust for use of the school district, provided that they construct a suitable building for use as a school within the succeeding year.

"The Little White School" was built. It was a long, narrow, one room wooden structure, generally known as the district school and derive its name from the fact that it was white-washed ~~is~~ for protection against the elements. The quarters soon became inadequate and an "L" addition, built of tin, was constructed in 1864.

The Visalia Select Seminary was organized by the Rev. and M_rs. B.W. Taylor in 1860, citizens subscribing to the building fund. Lots were donated by J.R. Keener at the present corner of West Mineral King and Watson avenues, combining a day and boarding school for pupils of both sexes. The main building was 80 feet long by 40 feet in width, 25 feet high in two stories. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 25x60

ad one early Visalia schools

The first school census was announced in November, 1860, showing 284 pupils between four and 18 years and 449 under 21 years.

Rev. Father D.F. Dade, in the latter part of A^ugust, 1861, opened the Academy of the Nativity. Father Dade was the first pastor appointed to the Roman Catholic mission in V_isalia.

Boys only were taught in the ~~Ac~~ Academy until the church was built when the space on the lower floor previously used as a chapel was rearranged for educational purposes and girls were admitted. The academy stood about where St. Mary's ~~church~~ church now stands. Father Dade today is recognized as one of the leaders in the pioneer movement for better educational facilities in Visalia.

"The L_ittle White School" and the seminary (the latter having been abandoned as a private school shortly after the flood of 1862) served as public schools in Visalia until 1872, when a two-story wooden building was constructed in the center of Block 18. The new school was 30 feet wide, 58 feet deep and consisted of two rooms on each floor.

Funds had been made available for construction of the school but none was provided for furnishings. Women of Visalia on Christmas Eve, 1872, gave a benefit ball in the new building. Men paid five and six dollars for tickets, music was supplied without charge, the Tulare ~~Times~~ (County) Times provided printing free and the women provided the food, serving it in "The L_ittle White School." The benefit netted between \$500 and \$600, a sum sufficient to purchase the needed furnishings.

more

ad one early Visalia schools

The first school census was announced in November, 1860, showing 284 pupils between four and 18 years and 449 under 21 years.

Rev. Father D.F. Dade, in the latter part of August, 1861, opened the Academy of the Nativity. Father Dade was the first pastor appointed to the Roman Catholic mission in Visalia.

Boys only were taught in the Academy until the church was built when the space on the lower floor previously used as a chapel was rearranged for educational purposes and girls were admitted. The academy stood about where St. Mary's ~~Catholic~~ church now stands. Father Dade today is recognized as one of the leaders in the pioneer movement for better educational facilities in Visalia.

"The Little White School" and the seminary (the latter having been abandoned as a private school shortly after the flood of 1862) served as public schools in Visalia until 1872, when a two-story wooden building was constructed in the center of Block 18. The new school was 30 feet wide, 58 feet deep and consisted of two rooms on each floor.

Funds had been made available for construction of the school but none was provided for furnishings. Women of Visalia on Christmas Eve, 1872, gave a benefit ball in the new building. Men paid five and six dollars for tickets, music was supplied without charge, the Tulare ~~Times~~ (County) Times provided printing free and the women provided the food, serving it in "The Little White School." The benefit netted between \$500 and \$600, a sum sufficient to purchase the needed furnishings.

more

ad two ~~schools~~ early Visalia schools

On the same night as the benefit ball, there occurred the hanging of Jim McCrory from the Court street bridge and the merry-makers were greeted by the sight of the swainging body as they started for home after midnight.

The new building was occupied for the first time on January 20, 1873. There were four grades--the first and second primary and the intermediate and grammar. The four teachers were Mrs. Boyer, Miss Victoria Wright, Mr. Novell and Mr. Mattlick.

Needs of the town were met by the wooden building until 1890 when a three-story brick building, later known as the Tipton Lindsey Grammar school, was constructed on the same sie, being occupied for the first time in May, 1891. Until the construction of the Visalia High school ~~xxxxxx~~ in 1897 on the site of the present Lincoln oval, this building served as both elementary and high school, being the first secondary school in Tulare county. The school house cost \$30,000 and was considered quite imposing in its day.

The main portion of the building consisted of three floors, each containing four classrooms, with long halls passing through the center of the building, two rooms being on either side. The front entrance, on the east, consisted of a long flight of granite steps reaching to the second floor and six entrances gave admittance to the ground floor.

The building was used as a school until condemned as unsafe and was razed in 1920, the ~~xxxxxx~~ Visalia Public library now occupying the site.

more

ad two ~~houses~~ early Visalia schools

On the same night as the benefit ball, there occurred the hanging of Jim McCrory from the Court street bridge and the merry-makers were greeted by the sight of the swaing body as they started for home after midnight.

The new building was occupied for the first time on January 20, 1873. There were four grades--the first and second primary and the intermediate and grammar. The four teachers were Mrs. Boyer, Miss Victoria Wright, Mr. Novell and Mr. Mattlick.

Needs of the town were met by the wooden building until 1890 when a three-story brick building, later known as the Tipton Lindsey Grammar school, was constructed on the same site, being occupied for the first time in May, 1891. Until the construction of the Visalia High school ~~in 1897~~ in 1897 on the site of the present Lincoln oval, this building served as both elementary and high school, being the first secondary school in Tulare county. The school house cost \$30,000 and was considered quite imposing in its day.

The main portion of the building consisted of three floors, each containing four classrooms, with long halls passing through the center of the building, two rooms being on either side. The front entrance, on the east, consisted of a long flight of granite steps reaching to the second floor and six entrances gave admittance to the ground floor.

The building was used as a school until condemned as unsafe and was razed in 1920, the ~~praze~~ Visalia Public library now occupying the site.

more

ad three early Visalia schools

The first high school building was financed by a \$10,000 bond issue on July 1, 1896 and the structure was completed in 1897. It was a two-story affair and, as stated above, was built on the present Lincoln oval site.

The original high school served as the Lincoln Primary school until 1924 when it was razed. It also was used for a ~~xx~~ brief period as a high school after destruction of the new high school building by fire in 1912. The latter building was erected in 1911 and speedily reconstructed after the fire.

The Visalia Normal school, a private institution, was opened on September 4, 1876, by A.R. Orr and J.S. McPhaill in a one-story, three-room building. ~~atxtkmaxcmmarzxzxAsaqqkz~~
~~andzWikkizxstnsskz~~ Particular attention was given to advance subjects and in the preparation of teachers for future school generations.

What corresponded to the present grammar grade course was instructed by a woman teacher, the first being a Miss Ward from San Francisco. Among her successors were Mrs. E.O. Larkins, Miss Mattie Roberts and Mrs. M.C.K. Schuey. Orr and McPhaill taught the advance subjects, graduates being qualified to teach or engage in general business. Orr, with various assistants, conducted the Visalia Normal until 1887 when he leased it to R.E. Johnson and the following year leased it again but the school ended ~~shaztly~~ operations shortly thereafter.

An article on present day Visalia schools appears elsewhere in the Anniversary Edition.

ad three early Visalia schools

The first high school building was financed by a \$10,000 bond issue on July 1, 1896 and the structure was completed in 1897. It was a two-story affair and, as stated above, was built on the present Lincoln oval site.

The original high school served as the Lincoln Primary school until 1924 when it was razed. It also was used for a ~~px~~ brief period as a high school after destruction of the new high school building by fire in 1912. The latter building was erected in 1911 and speedily reconstructed after the fire.

The Visalia Normal school, a private institution, was opened on September 4, 1876, by A.R. Orr and J.S. McPhaill in a one-story, three-room building. ~~atxtkexsxnexzfxsseqia~~ ~~andzWikkixsknsetax~~ Particular attention was given to advance subjects and in the preparation of teachers for future school generations.

What corresponded to the present grammar grade course was instructed by a woman teacher, the first being a Miss Ward from San Francisco. ^{am} Among her successors were Mrs. E.O. Larkins, Miss Mattie Roberts and Mrs. M.C.K. Schuey. Orr and McPhaill taught the advance subjects, graduates being qualified to teach or engage in general business. Orr, with various assistants, conducted the Visalia Normal until 1887 when he leased it to R.E. Johnson and the following year leased it again but the school ended ~~skzxkx~~ operations shortly thereafter.

An article on present day Visalia schools appears elsewhere in the Aⁿniversaries Edition.